

Listening to constituent concerns, honoring the victims of the Cherry Mine Disaster on its 100th Anniversary, and working to support area first responders, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) toured Bureau County on Saturday, November 14

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, visiting several locations.

Halvorson started the day in Princeton, where she presented medals earned during WWII to Hannah Dazzler, on behalf of her late father Mr. Solomon Dazzler. Rep. Halvorson's office fought to retrieve the seven medals and citations which included: the Bronze Star, World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Honorable Service Lapel Button, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

"This is really for my father and our entire family," said Hannah Dazzler. "I was able to contact Congresswoman Halvorson to help us out and she was able to bring us these medals for my father."

The Congresswoman then traveled to Arlington, where she spoke with members of the Arlington Fire Department, recipients of over \$71,000 in grant funding which allowed them to purchase a new fire engine to replace a 1968 model.

"We're working with equipment that's out of date and in some cases unsafe," said Dan Hunter of the Arlington Fire Department. "With the help of Congresswoman Halvorson we'll be able to keep our community safer."

Halvorson later traveled to Cherry, where she spoke and participated in the memorial unveiling of a monument honoring the 259 victims of the 1909 Cherry Mine Disaster. Joined by hundreds of local residents, Halvorson presented a copy of a resolution passed by the House of Representatives that she wrote and sponsored to Cherry, IL Mayor Bob McCook.

Halvorson ended her day in Peru, where she first met with a group of home health care nurses from the Illinois Homecare Council to discuss the Affordable Health Care for America Act and its affect on home health care nurses and their patients. The bill passed the House earlier this month.

"It gave us a little bit of insight into the bill, and confidence to know that someone is listening to our concerns about struggling home health care agencies," said Linda Leone of the Illinois Home Care Council. "Home health care provides a great service at a lower cost, it was good to meet with her again to address our concerns and move forward to improve home health care."

Halvorson ended her day with open community office hours in her Peru office. These office hours allowed members of the community to meet with the Congresswoman one-on-one, to ask questions and provide opinions on various issues.

"There are so many big issues we're working on both here and in Washington, it's important to me that I talk with our friends and neighbors and hear their ideas and concerns," said Halvorson.

"These community office hours are about creating a dialog and having a conversation about the issues that affect our communities. Whether it's delivering affordable, quality, stable health care that works for us, providing for our veterans, or helping our small businesses get back to work, I always look forward to talking directly with my constituents, and bringing their ideas and concerns back to Washington."